

Notes of 2/09/09 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee
Plainfield Energy Committee

Attending:

Rich Aiken, Rich Phillips, Anne Miller, Bob Atchinson, Lawrence Black, John Morris, & Saul Gresser

Convene: 6:30 PM

Adjoin: 8:30 PM

Business:

1) Review of Agenda, items prioritized.

2) Announcement: This Thursday, February 12th, the Vermont Outdoor Lighting Advisory Board, UVM Office of Sustainability, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation and others are sponsoring a presentation by someone from the Darksky Association regarding outdoor lighting ordinances and the preservation of the night sky and night landscape. The event will be held at UVM in Burlington. Bob invited anyone interested to join some folks from Plainfield who are planning to attend.

3) The Plainfield/Marshfield Area Skills Directory

Anne gave a brief update on the publication of the directory. Anyone interested in listing her/his skill in the directory needs to submit a form (along with suggested donation of 1-5\$) ASAP to the Plainfield Town Office. Anne handed out copies of form to those present. This directory has links/overlap with the Onion River Exchange. Contact Anne for a submission form.

The energy committee had been considering integrating our “neighbor to neighbor” contact list into this directory, but for the time being, the current EV “Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project” grant and home visits have taken precedence over this effort.

4) Review Of Chair’s Current Responsibilities And Redistribution Of Tasks Where Possible

Decisions:

#1, meeting notes and distribution, & #2, draft agendas, Saul will do. Draft agenda for next meeting will be created at the end of current meeting.

#3 was divided. Saul will be timekeeper. Those presenting issue topics will provide necessary background information for group and lead decision-making discussion.

#4 Rich will continue to be the liaison with the Selectboard.

#5 & 6 Rich will remain the lead on representing the committee to various regional groups and acting as our main contact person. All others will pick up this responsibility as situation, interest, and background warrant or make practicable.

#7 Rich will continue to forward pertinent information regarding conferences, workshops, etc. to all members who have e-mail; John will copy and mail forwarded information to those without electronic communication.

#8 We still need someone to track grant opportunities and act as lead grant writer. John offered to maintain a database if need be, but was not available to do research. The town currently receives information re: town related opportunities and Rich is alerted to these. Regarding community based and region wide opportunities, Rich will contact Andy Perchlek to see if he would be willing to act as the committee’s grant tracker.

#9 Overseeing grants Rich will continue to do.

#10 Monthly article for Field Notes Saul agreed to do.

#11 As above with conference notices, John agreed to forward all hard copies of notes, announcements, and related documents as needed to those without e-mail.

#12 Everyone agreed to split responsibilities as needed for leading and/or assisting in one or more committee projects.

5) Upcoming Regional Planning Committee Network Meeting Regarding Transportation: Meeting to be held @ Montpelier City Hall Community Room. Most likely the 26th of February; Rich will confirm date and let everyone know. All are invited to attend. We should have a representative there.

6) Updates: Other Grants and Wind Energy

Rich provided a brief update of the 12K weatherization grant request from ANR which he recently completed. Plan is to use the funds for the OSC and town maintenance buildings. All proceeds would be used for materials; volunteers would be solicited for the installation. We should know whether the grant request was successful by April 15th.

Rich is currently working on a 40K CEDF grant request (due February 17th) for the purchase of Pellet Boilers also to be installed at OSC and the maintenance barn. Some discussion over where best to place the boilers ensued. Further discussion if and when we receive the funds.

Rich to travel this week to Colbrook to investigate vertical wind turbine and the possible purchase of an anemometer for loan to town residents. Cost: \$450 with tower. Brief discussion re: practicality of loaning out anemometer. Bob suggested contacting VTC to see how their experience has been with such a loan program before investing. Other brief conversation re: viable wind sites in town for local generation. No decision.

7) Current Project: EV Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project Update

Rich has packets and free energy related supplies for homeowners. Sample packets were handed out to committee members in attendance. Flyers describing the program are currently being distributed: John Taylor, Maple Hill area; John Morris, Gorton Forrest Road; Laurence, Marshfield Town. Other areas have already been completed.

Home Visit Teams scheduled to meet on Thursday, February 19th @ 7pm, OSC. Logistics and scheduling to be discussed. Rich to notify volunteers. Visits likely to start on 21st and a schedule needs to be created for the other days. Some flexibility with scheduling is needed; however, EV would like at least “one big push” day when all three towns are out in force.

Volunteers are committing to three eight-hour days including visits and training. Rich Phillips, Marshfield; Bob Atchinson, Plainfield; and Dave Grundy, E. Montpelier are the intake people for their respective towns. All forms return to these folks for tally and forward to EV. Discussion re: structure of teams and process for home visit practices ensued. Rich will e-mail the Plainfield volunteers suggesting that, to the extent possible, each team will consist of one male/one female and one “technical” person/one “people” person. Also each person on the team should practice the process by completing a visit to his or her partner’s home. One logistical item of note: fuel forms need to go out to homeowners prior to visits. Teams will make contact with homeowners re: dates of visits and completion of energy use form. Bill Goss will be Plainfield’s official programmable thermostat installer.

Both Plainfield and Marshfield have additional folks attending the upcoming Montpelier volunteer training on the 18th. Carpooling opportunity to this training. Rich will send out a note to those attending from Marshfield: Anne Miller, John Morris, Roger and Polly Laurence, Dan Chodorkoff

Additional questions re: possibility of press coverage for the event? Is EV planning to invite the press? Rich will ask. Also, Do we know of anyone who is a reporter, resident of the town, and willing to participate? Discussion. No conclusions.

Draft Agenda Items For Next Meeting:

- 1) How to disburse of current energy committee funds available
- 2) Transportation issues: next steps
- 3) Follow-up on current project

Note: Rich agreed to bring a laptop and Bob a memory stick to help with minute taking.

Respectfully Submitted, Saul Gresser